



BEING MUSLIM IN AMERICA



A New Beginning: Engaging with Muslims Worldwide on *America.gov*

The President's Remarks at Cairo University, Egypt - June 4, 2009.

"We have the power to make the world we seek, but only if we have the courage to make a new beginning, keeping in mind what has been written," President Obama said in remarks at Cairo University.

Being Muslim in America on *America.gov* March 2009 - The young women pictured on the cover of this booklet are both Muslim. They live near Detroit, Michigan, in a community with many Arab-American residents. Each expresses her faith in her own way, with a combination of traditional and modern dress. Here, they compete fiercely on the basketball court in a sport

that blends individual skills and team effort. They - along with the other men, women, and children in this publication - demonstrate every day what it is like to be Muslim in America, which is home to one of the most diverse Muslim communities in the world, with a total population estimated between 3 million and 6 million people.

Many Muslims Saw Hope, Change in Obama's Cairo Speech on *America.gov* June 5, 2009 - Many, including Dhaka University political science professor Shariful Islam in Bangladesh believe that it was a "charismatic speech by a charismatic world leader, Barack Obama, who leaves the most influence on human hearts across the globe. This is an overwhelming desire on the part of the [United States] to truly address a difficult issue" in improving relations between Muslims and the United States.

5 Things You Didn't Know About Ramadan by Vali Nasr. *Foreign Policy*. July/August 2010.

A Multicultural Ramadan - As the Ramadan season of introspection and celebration begins, Muslim Americans in large cities and small towns will come together in mosques and homes to observe Ramadan as do Muslims in more than 80 countries across the globe. *America.gov* explores the richness of these traditions through the lens of this celebration.

Obama Administration Reaches Out to Muslims Worldwide on *America.gov* August 4, 2009. - President Obama has said he seeks a new beginning with Muslims worldwide "based upon mutual interest and mutual respect" and also "based upon the truth that America and Islam are not exclusive, and need not be in competition." Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton echoed Obama's commitment. On June 26, she appointed Farah Pandith as a special representative to Muslim communities. Pandith is responsible for implementing the administration's efforts to engage with Muslims around the world on a person-to-person and organizational level.

Muslims and America: Internalizing the Clash of Civilizations by Steven Kull. *World Public Opinion.org*, June 7, 2010. Kull believes that there is quite a lot of anger toward America in the Muslim world.



The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC). Backgrounder by Toni Johnson. *Council on Foreign Relations*, June 29, 2010. Comprised of fifty-seven nations spread over four continents, the forty-year-old OIC is the second largest international body after the U.N., and seeks to protect Muslim interests worldwide.

Major Muslim-Organized Cultural Festival Expands in Chicago – on *America.gov* 28 June, 2010. Every two years, Chicago hosts one of the nation's largest Muslim-led festivals where thousands of people descended on Chicago's Marquette Park on June 19 to attend the *Takin' It to the Streets Urban International Festival*. Organized by the Inner-City Muslim Action Network (IMAN), this year's festival attracted Muslims and non-Muslims from every corner of America.

Role of Muslim Women in Enriching American Society Spotlights on *America.gov*, 9 July, 2010. Muslim-American women are actively changing their communities for the better.

Journey into America Highlights Muslim-American Diversity – on *America.gov*, 26 July, 2010. Scholar Akbar Ahmed weaves a journey through the diversity of Muslim Americans and their place in American society in his latest book, *Journey into America*.

Muslims in America – A Statistical Portrait – on *America.gov* 18 December 2008. Today's Muslim American population is an extraordinary mosaic of ethnic, linguistic, ideological, social, economic, and religious groups. Native Muslim Americans are well integrated into American society, while many newcomers are just beginning to adapt to American life. Data includes level of education, annual household income, Muslim-American ethnicity, and describes the geographic distribution of mosques, etc.

Forum for the Future 2009: Partnerships with Muslim Communities - The State Department releases a fact sheet outlining the U.S. administration's initiatives to broaden engagement with Muslim communities worldwide.

National Muslim Convention Highlights Faith and Community on *America.gov*, 07 July, 2010. Thousands of Muslim Americans gathered in Chicago July 2–4 at the Islamic Society of North America's (ISNA's) 47th annual convention to learn how combining faith and community service strengthens them and their country.

American Muslims Urged to Increase Community Activism by Ahmed Mohamed on *America.gov* 3 August, 2009. Convention speakers cite new openings for past accomplishments and activism, saying that American Muslims are an integral part of the cultural landscape of America.

Inside Islam: What a Billion Muslims Really Think on *America.gov*, 12 June, 2009. A documentary film based on a Gallup Poll study has its world premiere.

A Gallup Study: Who Speaks for Islam? Muslims in 35 nations surveyed in comprehensive study by Ahmed Mohamed on *America.gov*, 5 May 2009.

Spotlight on Muslim Americans: Shahed Amanullah Creator/host of the Web site *altmuslim* by Ahmed Mohamed on *America.gov* 11 June 2009.

Diversity – Offering a Place for Everyone

"If we are to have partners for peace, then we must first be partners in sympathetic recognition that all mankind possesses in common like aspirations and hungers, like ideals and appetites, like purposes and frailties, a like demand for economic advancement. The divisions between us are artificial and transient.

Our common humanity is God-made and enduring."

President Dwight Eisenhower, July 11, 1955.

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